

A. O. STUART HOME.

2 WASHINGTON, ARK.

Hempstead Co.

HABS 32.6

HABS  
ARK.

29-WASH

4

PHOTOGRAPHS.

WRITTEN HISTORICAL & DESCRIPTIVE DATA.

DISTRICT No 32.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
LAWSON L. DELONY DISTRICT OFFICER.  
807 SOUTHERN BUILDING LITTLE ROCK, ARK.

A.O. STUART HOUSE  
Washington, Hempstead County, Arkansas

HISTORICAL NOTES:

Located in Washington, Hempstead County, Arkansas, is the one story frame house of A. O. Stuart, built in 1852. Constructed chiefly of hand finished lumber, and, at the present time, is in a fair state of repair.

Land grant from the U. S. Government for the laying off of the town of Washington: Granted under Act of Congress, dated May 26, 1824, entitled: "An Act of Congress granting to the counties or parishes in each State and Territory in which the public lands are located, the right of pre-emption to one quarter section of land for the seats of Justice within the same, to Elijah Stuart, James Moss, Meredith Edwards, Samuel B. Davis and Hewett Burt, Commissioners for locating of the Seat of Justice of Hempstead County, Arkansas".

The above Commissioners "transferred it May 7, 1829, to Daniel T. Witter, Absalom Madding and Edward Cross, trustees of the town of Washington".

The plot of ground on which the Stuart home stands was bought first by Catherine Wheat, wife of William H. Conway; Conway sold it to Thomas Hubbard, the old Nester of Law, and step-father of Augustus H. Garland, after which it reverted back to the State.

On February 12, 1842, it was sold by the above trustees of the town, to Martin Mondy, who sold it to B. L. Britton. Thomas again bought it from Britton and sold it to James McDaniel, who built the home in 1852-57 and sold the property as soon as the house was finished to A. O. Stuart, great nephew of Elijah Stuart, the Founder.

A. O. Stuart was married four times, his last wife being Ruth McHenry Stuart, whose fame as a Southern writer began while she was living in the house.

In after years the house was purchased from the Stuart heirs by Ab Smith, who, with his cousin Jack Hervey, was the hero of the Brooks-Baxter War during the reconstruction period. (See Garland's "coup d'etat" in Mr. Allsopp's "Folk Lore of Romantic Arkansas".) Which is to the effect that Ab Smith and his cousin Jack Hervey, captured (or kidnapped) two supreme judges on the opposite bank of the Arkansas River at Little Rock and held them

in a dense thicket for a day and a half, until Garland could hear from Grant.

Source of information:

Mrs. Charlean Moss Williams, Washington, Arkansas.

Mrs. A. F. Smith, Washington, Arkansas.

*Lawson L. Delony*

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